

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306590  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:MDION:BC  
APPROVED BY USOAS:AMB. GMCGEE  
USOAS - IGTRAGEN  
ARA - JBUSHNELL (INFO)  
S-S:SVALERGA

-----007219 232348Z /73

P 232249Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306590

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, UY

SUBJECT: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MONTEVIDEO

REF: STATE 304288  
MONTEVIDEO 5758

1. AMBASSADOR MCGEE MET WITH URUGUAYAN OAS AMBASSADOR ROCA  
MORNING OF DECEMBER 23 TO DISCUSS OUR SERIOUS MISGIVINGS  
OVER HOLDING VIII GA IN MONTEVIDEO GIVEN GOU'S ATTITUDE  
TOWARD IAHR. IN BRIEF MEETING DECEMBER 20, ROCA HAD  
PROPOSED THAT US CONCERNS MIGHT BE SATISFIED BY LONG-  
DISCUSSED VISIT OF HIGH LEVEL GROUP OF US CITIZENS. MCGEE  
INSISTED PROBLEM WAS NOT BILATERAL BUT BETWEEN URUGUAY AND  
THE IAHR, AN ORGAN OF THE OAS, AND RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM  
REQUIRED MULTILATERAL ACTION. VISIT OF US CITIZENS AGREED  
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TO IN CARTER-MENDEZ MEETING NEEDED TO GO FORWARD BUT, WITHIN  
OAS, STANDOFF BETWEEN GOU AND IAHR REMAINED SERIOUS ISSUE  
COMPLICATING INVITATION TO MEET IN MONTEVIDEO. ROCA  
PROMISED TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS AND FURTHER DISCUSSION WAS  
SET FOR TODAY.

2. SESSION OPENED TODAY WITH MCGEE/TRAGEN MAKING FOLLOWING

MAJOR POINTS:

-- WE HAVE GRAVE PROBLEM IN HOLDING GA IN MONTEVIDEO AFTER SANTIAGO AND GRENADA BECAUSE OF URUGUAYAN RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS.  
-- UNLESS THIS PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED BY FORTHCOMING ACTION BY GOU ON HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT, US DELEGATION WILL BE UNABLE TO SUPPORT URUGUAYAN INVITATION.

-- MY ESTIMATE AT THIS TIME IS THAT USG POSITION WILL BE THAT ONLY MEANINGFUL WAY TO RESOLVE IMPASSE IS FOR GOU TO INVITE IAHRG TO VISIT URUGUAY AND SET FIRM DATE, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY BEFORE VIII OASGA.

-- IF URUGUAY'S INVITATION SHOULD RECEIVE TWO-THIRDS VOTE, OVER OUR OPPOSITION, USG WILL FACE PROBLEM OF LEVEL OF OUR REPRESENTATION; GIVEN OUR STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUPPORT OF IAHRG, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SEND A DELEGATION AT NORMAL LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION UNLESS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN URUGUAY HAD TAKEN PLACE IN INTERIM.

-- FIRM OFFER OF INVITATION TO IAHRG AT DATE CERTAIN WOULD GO FAR TO ASSURE SUCCESS OF GA IN MONTEVIDEO.

-- SITE OF GA IS A MULTILATERAL QUESTION AND US HAS ONE OF TWENTY-FIVE VOTES IN THE OAS; MY DELEGATION  
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WOULD ATTEND THE MONTEVIDEO GA IF THAT IS WILL OF TWO-THIRDS OF MEMBERSHIP.

-- ON BILATERAL LEVEL, USG CONTINUES TO EXPECT IMPLEMENTATION OF MENDEZ-CARTER AGREEMENT FOR HIGH-LEVEL US DELEGATION TO VISIT URUGUAY BUT WE DO NOT SEE THAT AS WAY TO DEAL WITH MULTILATERAL PROBLEM BEFORE THE OAS.

-- AS OF NOW, GA HELD IN MONTEVIDEO WOULD HAVE ONE ISSUE AGENDA, AS AT GRENADA, CAUSING DEFERRAL OF MUCH IMPORTANT INTER-AMERICAN BUSINESS AND FURTHER CONTENTIOUS DEBATE DESPITE SOUND DECISION MADE AT GRENADA TO ENHANCE ROLE AND RESOURCES OF IAHRG.

-- IF IMPASSE RESOLVED, ON THE OTHER HAND, GA IN MONTEVIDEO WOULD GIVE GOU GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE TO ALL THOSE ATTENDING (INCLUDING FOMINS, OFFICIALS OF IAHRG, FOREIGN PRESS) THAT URUGUAY HAS NOTHING TO HIDE.

3. ROCA TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF POINTS MADE AND PROPOSED UNDER

INSTRUCTIONS: (1) AN EXPANDED US INSPECTION GROUP TO BE MADE UP OF AS MANY US INTERESTED PARTIES AS US DESIRES, AND (2) AN INVITATION TO OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA TO NAME A PANEL OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF OAS OR NOMINEES TO VISIT MONTEVIDEO, HOLD TALKS WITH GOU OFFICIALS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISCUSS NEXT STEPS FOR OVERCOMING IMPASSE OVER IAHC. ROCA SAID GOU WOULD NOT PERMIT VISIT BY IAHC ALLEGING THAT IAHC ACTED AS BOTH PROSECUTOR AND JUDGE. HE CHARGED THAT IAHC WAS ACTING BEYOND SCOPE OF ITS MANDATE AND WAS INTERVENING IN INTERNAL URUGUAYAN AFFAIRS. MEANWHILE, GOU IS PREPARED TO INVITE IMMEDIATELY HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OF US CITIZENS FROM UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS TO JOURNALISTS--WHOM-EVEN WE NAME. CONCOMMITANT INVITATION TO OAS HE FELT WOULD SATISFY OUR CONCERN THAT OAS BE CONSULTED AS WELL AS  
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USG.

4. AMBASSADOR MCGEE ASKED IF ONE OF OAS GROUP MIGHT INCLUDE HIGH OFFICIAL OF IAHC, SUCH AS ITS PRESIDENT OR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY? ROCA SAID HE COULD NOT COMMIT GOU BUT HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT SUCH AN APPOINTMENT BY SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, ESPECIALLY IF IT ASSURED HIGH LEVEL US PARTICIPATION IN GA. MCGEE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT, WHERE MANY SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE SERIOUS CONCERN WITH URUGUAY'S OFFER, AND WOULD MEET WITH ROCA AGAIN NEXT WEDNESDAY.

5. FYI, VOTE ON SITE FOR GA NOW POSTPONED TO MID-JANUARY END FYI. WHILE WE SEE SOME POTENTIAL BENEFITS IN INVITATION TO SECRETARY GENERAL, WE ALSO SEE DANGERS. IF IT CAN BE USED AS A POSSIBLE STEP TOWARD RESOLUTION OF IAHC-GOU IMPASSE IT COULD MEAN SIGNIFICANT FORWARD MOTION. HOWEVER, IT COULD BE USED AS MEANS TO END-RUN THE IAHC. COMPOSITION OF SUCH AN OAS PANEL, AND CLARIFICATION OF WHETHER IT WOULD BE MADE UP OF CAREER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS OR OAS AMBASSADORS (WHOSE?) WOULD BE CRUCIAL BUT SO WOULD INCLUSION OF IAHC OFFICIAL.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON GOU'S INTENTIONS IN THIS OFFER. WE WILL BE PREPARING OPTIONS PAPER FOR SECRETARY EARLY NEXT WEEK AND COULD INCLUDE SOME FORM OF COMPROMISE ALONG THESE LINES. REQUEST YOUR APPRAISAL. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009